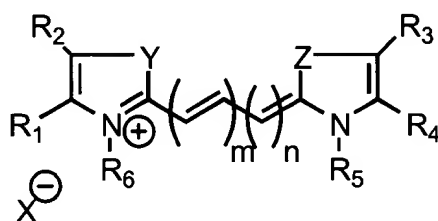


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A chiral detecting reagent comprising the structure (I):



(I)

wherein R_1 and R_2 , and R_3 and R_4 taken together each independently comprise a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic or polycyclic aryl or heteroaromatic moiety;

m is 1, 2, or 3;

n is 0 or 1;

Z and Y independently comprise O , S , Se , CR_2 or NR ; $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{Se}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{R})_2-$ or $-\text{NR}-$; wherein each occurrence of the functional moiety R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and methyl;

X is a non-coordinating negative counter ion; and

R_5 and R_6 independently comprise lower alkyl, a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker, with the proviso that at least one of R_5 and R_6 is a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein R_1 and R_2 and R_3 and R_4 taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C_6H_6 ; wherein each of Z and Y are $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2-$; wherein the linker moiety comprises $-(\text{CH})_p(\text{CO})-$; wherein p is 1-5, and wherein the chiral reagent comprises a chiral acylating agent having the general structure: $-\text{N}(\text{R}')-\text{CH}(\text{R}_x)-$

COOH, where R_x comprises an amino acid side chain, and R' is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together with the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein R_1 and R_2 and R_3 and R_4 taken together each comprise a benzene moiety, C_6H_6 .

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein Z and Y are each $-C(CH_3)_2$.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein X is BF_4 , PF_6 , ClO_4 , TsO, I or Br.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein one of R_5 and R_6 is methyl, and the other comprises a chiral reagent (CR) or a chiral reagent and linker (L-CR), whereby said chiral reagent is attached to the detecting agent via the linker.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, 17 or 25, wherein the linker moiety comprises $-(CH)_p-(CO)-$; wherein p is 1-5.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein m and n are each 1.

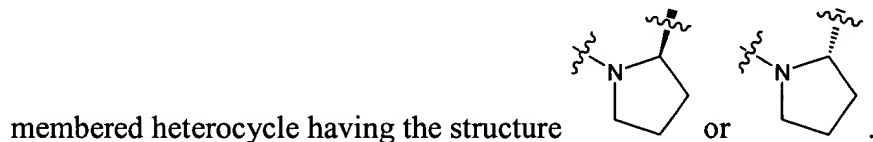
Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein m is 2 and n is 1.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein the chiral agent comprises a chiral acylating agent.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 29, wherein the chiral acylating agent has the general structure: $-N(R')-CH(R_x)-COOH$, where R_x comprises an amino acid side chain; and R' is hydrogen, or R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-membered heterocycle.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 30, wherein R' is hydrogen and R_x is methyl, ethyl, *iso*-propyl, *iso*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, benzyl or cyclohexylmethyl.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 30, wherein R' and R_x taken together the nitrogen and carbon atoms to which they are respectively attached form a 5-



Claim 33 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 16, wherein the chiral reagent (CR) or the chiral reagent and linker (L-CR) is attached at any one of R_1-R_6 , or as substitutions of other moieties thereof attached at R_1-R_6 .

Claim 34 (Previously Presented) The chiral detecting reagent of claim 26, wherein p is 4.